

to purchase the stone, than the lime, as they may select their own time and opportunities for burning it, and not remain dependent upon contingencies to obtain it; since it may sometimes happen that after contracting for it, it may not be ready for delivery when they are prepared to receive it, or the reverse, in which case it remains exposed and liable to injury. Again, by burning the stone upon their own premises, they have the refuse parts of the kiln, and the ashes, which may likewise be put to good account.

In thus urging upon the farmers of Montgomery county the free use of lime upon their lands, it is done with the conviction that it is the most efficient means they have at command to restore most of that which is in a very impoverished condition, and of imparting to all a degree of permanent fertility that cannot be attained in any other manner. Lime, in truth, appears for them to be the chief *desideratum*, as almost all the other advantages that a country can possess for carrying on agricultural pursuits profitably are here to be found: an improveable soil, a sufficiency of woodland, abundance of water, numerous sites for meadows, and the proximity to a populous district, seem to render it peculiarly adapted to farming, and should encourage its inhabitants to turn their attention, not only to the production of the great staple commodities of our State, but to the formation of dairies, the more extended cultivation of their root crops, of vegetables, of fruits, and, in fine, to all those resources of a farm that go to supply the wants of a large community. On the other hand, the great salubrity of the country, the unfailing supply of delicious water, together with its vicinity to the seat of the national government, renders it no less eligible to gentlemen of fortune and leisure for the selection of delightful rural retreats. It behoves the people of Montgomery to shew, by well-conducted experiments, that nothing that has been stated in reference to the facility with which their lands can be made highly productive, at comparatively a moderate cost, has been exaggerated.

SEC. V.—*Mineral Resources of Montgomery county.*

It has already been stated that the principal mineral resource of the county lies in a region of country east of the Seneca, in which the prevailing rock is the *serpentine*—a rock easily recognised, as it usually presents some shade of green, sometimes of a uniform color, but more frequently the different shades and colors are disposed in stripes or veins, so that when polished it bears some resemblance to the skin of a serpent; whence its name. This rock is very frequently found to form the gangue, or matrix, of an ore of known and increasing value, usually designated as the *chrome ore*. The occurrence of the ore in this region was announced by me a few years back, which led to its extraction in several localities, under circumstances not well calculated, however, to subserve the interests either of its